

Indiana Dunes State Park

Nature Center

1600 N. 25 E. Chesterton, Indiana 46304 • (219) 926-1390

July Nature Center Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CDT Daily

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. However, children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

10am-4pm Naturalist On The Run – Keep your eyes open for a naturalist as they rove the campground with some curious objects.

11am Reptiles Of The Dunes– Join a Naturalist at the campground shelter for an up close look at the liles of the area. 1 hr. campfire program.

Monday, July 2

11am Turkey Talk – Learn more about the remarkable return of North America’s largest ground living bird in this 30 min. program at the Nature Center.

11am Beach Fossil Hunt – Meet us at the picnic pavilion and wander the beach with a naturalist finding ancient fossils. 1hour.

Tuesday, July 3

11am Mobile Mammals – Discover how many of furry friends call the park home in this 30 min. program at the Nature Center.

11am Frolicking For Ferns - Join a Naturalist at Nature Center for this 1 hour easy hike to seek out some ancient plants.

Wednesday, July 4

4th OF JULY!!!!

1030am ID That Tree – See some of the largest trees in the park and discover the distinguishable characteristics of different species on this 1 hour easy hike from the Nature Center.

10pm Patriots In The Wild - Discover the birds and animals that have played major roles in the story of our country on this 1 hour easy hike from the Nature Center.

Thursday, July 5

11am Create a Journal – Uncover the tips and tricks of preserving your thoughts and memories using this 1 hour journal/sketching workshop at the Nature Center.

11am Backyard Wildlife – Join a Naturalist at the observation window to see how you can attract wildlife to your own space in this 30 min. program at the Nature Center.

2pm Dune Crawling – Join a naturalist at Nature Center for this 1 hour rugged hike to the top of Mt. Jackson, the third highest point in the park.

Friday, July 7

11am Some Wild Weeds – Discover the exotic and invasive plant species invading the dunes and how they threaten the natural bio-diversity in this 30 min. program at the Nature Center.

3pm Beach Scavenger Hunt - Join a Naturalist at the pavilion and discover some of the treasures washed up on the beach during this 1 hour program.

Saturday, July 8

Indiana Dunes Sand Sculpture Contest

Join the Friends of the Dunes for this special annual event and enter to win or just watch for fun!

9:00-9:30am Registration at the Pavilion – Sign up in one of two categories to be judged: Kids ages 15 and under and Family 6-8 people and less.

9:30-11:00am Sand Sculpting – Sculpture must be made from all natural materials found on the beach.

11:00-11:30am Judging – Judging based on originality, use of a theme, creativity, and complexity.

12:00pm Awards Ceremony – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes for both the kids and family categories.

8pm Beautiful Blowout – Join a naturalist on this 1 hour easy hike and see one of the most beautiful sunset in the Midwest from way atop Beach House Blowout. On the way back discover some of the parks nocturnal animals.

Sunday, July 9

11am Wildflowers Of The Dunes– Experience the wildflowers of the park from the comfort of the auditorium during this 30 min. slide show at the Nature Center.

1pm Beach Glass Discover Hike – Meet a naturalist at the Pavilion for a stroll along Lake Michigan to search for some beach gems!

Monday, July 10

11am Animal Signs – Wildlife can be hard to find, we have ways to help you discover who’s around. Find out how in this 30 min. program at the Nature Center.

Tuesday, July 11

11am Story Of The Dunes – Join us at the Nature Center for an introduction to one of the most unique areas of the world in this 30 min. program at Nature Center.

Wednesday, July 12

11am Backpacking 101 Learn the best and most crucial items to take on a venture into the wilderness in this 30 min. program at the Nature Center.

Thursday, July 13

11am Scales And Tales – Get up close and personal with some native reptiles during a 30 min. program at the Nature Center.

11am Whooo Goes There – Learn more about common Owls of Indiana in this 30 min. program at Nature Center.

Friday, July 14

11am Beginning Birding – Learn the dynamics of bird watching during this 50 min. movie at the Nature Center.

Saturday, July 15

11am Lake Michigan Sportfishing - Learn about common sportfish of the lake, when they are most active, and the best techniques to get them on your hook during this 30 min. program at the Nature Center.

11am-4pm Naturalist On The Run – Keep your eyes open for a naturalist as they rove the beach with their curious objects.

10pm Sunset Climb – Join a Naturalist to climb one of the tallest dunes in the area and discover some of the most beautiful sunsets you’ll ever lay eyes on during this 1 hour hike from the Nature Center.

Sunday, July 16

11am Lunch With A Naturalist – Join a naturalist at the Nature Center, and bring along a dish as you’re going to get hungry on this 2 hour hike to some of the most secluded areas of the park.

11am Wildfire – Think you got what it takes to be a Wildland Firefighter? Find out during this 30 min. program and short movie at the Nature Center.

Monday, July 17

11am Eagle Adventures – Experience the world of our national bird during this 30 min. movie at the Nature Center.

Tuesday, July 18

11am Exciting Insects – Learn more about the most abundant life form on the planet during this 30 min. program and short movie at the Nature Center.

11am Attracting Hummingbirds – Join us for this 50 min. movie in the Nature Center auditorium.

2pm Attracting Butterflies – Find out how to attract a variety of these insects during this 60 min. movie in the Nature Center auditorium.

Thursday, July 20

11pm Scatastic Adventure – Join a Naturalist for this 1 hour talk and short hike exploring what animals leave behind.

Friday, July 21

11am Meet Your Neighbors– The campground can be a pretty happening place, join us at Campground Shelter to find out what some of the most common critters are during this 1 hour program.

Saturday, July 22

Indiana Dunes 80th Birthday Celebration

11am An Island Paradise – The park has spent the last 80 years protecting some of the most unique areas in the world. Experience a few of the natural areas that we are protecting during this 2 hr moderate hike from the Nature Center.

2pm The Winds of Change – Step back in time with a naturalist and meet the dedicated people who helped make the park possible during this 30 min. prog. in the Nature Center.

3pm Legacy in the Sand – See how all the pieces of the Indiana Dunes have come together: plants, animals, and people over the last 80 years during this 30 min. prog. in the Nature Center.

7:30pm 1926 at the Cinema – Join us in the Nature Center for a screening of classic cinema from the same year the park opened.

Sunday, July 23

11am Resource Management 101 – Find out what it takes to keep the natural areas of the park in pristine condition during this 30 min. program at Nature Center.

1pm Historical Beach Walk – Join a Naturalist at the Historic pavilion and discover some of the history of the park during this 45 min. easy hike.

Monday, July 24

11am Great Lakes Invaders – Find out who the invaders are how they are changing our Great Lakes ecosystem during this 30 min. program at the Nature Center.

Tuesday, July 25

2pm What Washes Up? – Join a Naturalist at the pavilion to discover some of the more interesting things that wash up on the beach during this 1 hr beach hike.

Wednesday, July 26

11am Skulls, Furs, and More – Become a wildlife detective and learn how to implement your skills during this 30 min. program at the Nature Center.

Thursday, July 27

n Eyes of the Night – Lurk into the world of
urnal animals during this 30 min. program at the
re Center.

lay, July 28

im Ecology Cove – Discover the area in
h the “Father of Ecology” Henry Cowles first
ulated his theories on plant succession on this 1
easy hike from the Nature Center.

urday, July 29

im A Lot To Loose – Discover some of the
natural areas and rare plants of the park during
30 min. program at the Nature Center.

n-4pm Naturalist On The Run – Keep your
s open for a naturalist as they rove the
pground with some curious objects.

n Death From Above - The Park is home to
ariety of flying predators – see for yourself during
1 hour program at the Campground Shelter.

nday, July 30

im Habitat Hike – Discover the various
tats the Dunes has to offer on this 1 hour easy
from the pavilion.

n Blaze Of Glory – Why do we set parts of the
on fire? Learn control techniques and benefits of
cribed fire during this 30 min. program at the
re Center.

nday, July 31

im Natural History of Lake Michigan –
r time many species have come and gone from
lake. Find out who’s coming, who’s going, and why
ng this 30 min. program at the Nature Center.

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